

YELLOWSTONE RIVER *Conservation* *District* COUNCIL

Fiscal Year 2008 Newsletter

July 12, 2007 – Yellowstone River Tour.

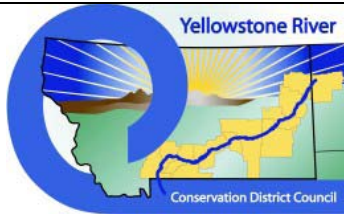
Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr. Assistant Secretary of the Army and nine other representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers attended the Yellowstone River tour. In total, 57 people attended this event. During a jet-boat tour, we covered approximately 20 miles of river in 3 hours stopping to view the Huntley Irrigation Diversion Dam and a bank stabilization project, upstream near the confluence with the Clark's Fork, using bendway weirs. This tour gave participants the opportunity to view not only the most urban and impacted area of the Yellowstone River, but also some of the most beautiful and unique landscapes on the river. The meeting also provided the YRCDC with the opportunity to discuss the Cumulative Effects Study with our federal partners, representatives from other organizations, and our congressional delegation.



July 22-27, 2007 - The great Yellowstone River Clean-Up project!

During this project, we removed nearly 10 tons of litter and debris from the banks of the Yellowstone River. We are very proud to report that each of our constituent Conservation Districts participated in the great Yellowstone River Clean-Up project. Throughout each day CD representatives met with the MCC staff and volunteers to stress the importance of this project and explain how it fits in with the greater role that conservation districts play in Montana and nationwide. Our CD's also coordinated with local volunteer groups including the

Boy Scouts, and the Lions Club. Additionally, they worked with the local media, including newspapers and television, donated home cooked meals, cold drinks, hats, t-shirts, and swim movie passes to the crews. Thank you to everyone who helped us to succeed!



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August 29 – 30th, 2007 – Tour of Intake, the Confluence, and the I-94 Bridge at Glendive.

This event combined a year's worth of events into two beautiful days in eastern Montana! First, participants attended the MORAST (Missouri River Association of States & Tribes) tour of Intake Irrigation Diversion Dam. We heard representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, discuss their plans to build the first-ever Pallid Sturgeon fish ladder in an effort to protect and preserve the endangered species.



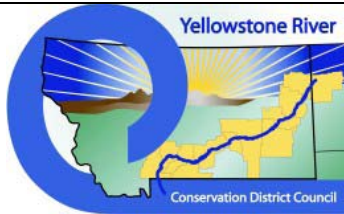
Next, we traveled to the Yellowstone – Missouri Confluence Interpretive Center for a YRCDC meeting, a joint meeting with the MRCDC, and to enjoy a meal together in the lovely rotunda. The next day, we traveled to Glendive to meet with the Dawson County CD, the City of Glendive, and the Dawson County Commissioners to share ideas about Intake and the I-94 bridge issue. In the afternoon, we toured the I-94 bridge area. Overall, the event was a terrific success not only did the YRCDC learn a great deal about these issues, but laid foundations and established relationships with the people and organizations involved.



November 7, 2007 – Managing Russian olive demonstration at Sanders Community Hall in Hysham. Jeff Mosley and Brent Roeder of MSU were the guest speakers at the Russian olive tree removal demonstration that was held near Hysham. Jeff Mosley spoke about the pros and cons of Russian olive. After Jeff and Brent finished their talk, the participants headed out for a field visit and demonstration. Brent Roeder used tree shears to cut down the trees and an herbicide was sprayed on the stumps prevent them from growing back.

The YRCDC drafted implementation strategies that would accompany the Russian olive best management practices. The objectives are to prevent the spread of Russian olive trees along the Yellowstone River, encourage special management zones within the valley where the need is high, and work to initiate small demonstration projects along the Yellowstone River.

A brochure will be produced that will be specific to the Yellowstone River and state the best management practices along with information about the plant. Agencies and landowners will be contacted to help spread the information and discourage planting of Russian olive. It will be suggested that nurseries take the Russian olive off their plant list.



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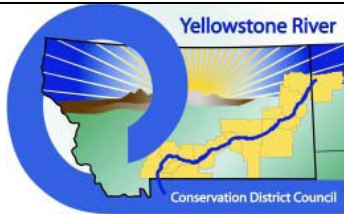
February 14-16, 2008 – MATE Show booth display in Billings. The YRDCD had a booth at the Montana Agri-Trade Exposition (MATE). With 13,510 attendees in 2008, MATE is the largest agricultural trade show event of the year in Montana. YRDCD Resource Advisory Committee member and MATE show owner founder, Jerry Hanson, donated the booth free of charge. It was continuously manned by a crew of generous volunteers, including several YRDCD members, during the entire show. The goal of attending was to raise awareness about the Cumulative Effects Study, distribute YRDCD brochures, display map and information panels about YRDCD activities, and answer any questions the public might have regarding the YRDCD and their partnerships with other constituent groups.



April 29, 2008 – River Summit at the Miles City Community College in Miles City. Walter Rolf, Chairman of the Custer County Conservation District and Carol Watts, Administrator along with Don Youngbauer, Yellowstone River Conservation District Chairman participated in the River Awareness Summit held at the Miles Community College in Miles City. The YRDCD displays were set up and information was made available to the public. Don Youngbauer was the keynote speaker for the evening session and served on the panel for the discussion following. Don Youngbauer

highlighted the mission, goals, and objectives of the Yellowstone River Corridor study. He also reported on the studies completed so far. The Channel Migration Zone mapping and the 310-permit mapping were two areas of special interest. Youngbauer's message was encouraging and he felt the time was well spent. He encouraged the public to get involved with the decision making process for flood control in Miles City.

May 20, 2008 – Russian Olive Management Demonstration in Miles City. Jeff Mosley and Brent Roeder of MSU were once again the speakers for our discussion and demonstration of Russian olive tree removal at Fort Keogh in Miles City. Gary Wiest of "Get 'ER Done Wiest" was on hand to demonstrate his tremendous tree removal equipment.



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Mature Russian olive trees are difficult to control. Mowing effectively controls saplings, but saplings resprout and must be mowed every year.



Herbicides can be applied to Russian olive trees in early summer when the leaves of the trees are fully developed. Triclopyr ester (Remedy) herbicide works best, but 2 to 3 annual re-applications are usually necessary. Another alternative is to cut Russian olive trees with a chain saw or an implement mounted on a skid steer loader. Trees should be cut as close to the ground as possible and herbicide needs to be applied to the stump soon after cutting to prevent the tree from re-sprouting.

June 19, 2008 – YRCDC meeting at Fort Keogh in Miles City. The June YRCDC meeting was held at Fort Keogh in Miles City. It was a beautiful day to break for lunch and meet at the fishing access site at the T&Y Dam. While eating lunch the group listened to Roger Muggli, manager of the T&Y Canal and member of the YRCDC Resource Advisory Committee. Roger spoke of growing up on a farm by the Yellowstone River and rescuing fish that had been stranded in puddles in the fields watered by the T&Y Canal. He also spoke of farming those same fields as an adult and his efforts that brought about the fish passage as we see it today. Roger acknowledged the other groups and agencies made his dream a reality. Due to Roger's personal dedication and commitment throughout his lifetime, the fish passage became a reality and the YRCDC applauds him for his hard work and dedication to the project.



For more information:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/yellowstonerivercouncil/default.asp>

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